

22R-20

Sponsored by the Hammond Common Council

RESOLUTION NO. R20

Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Indiana, Endorsing and Urging Passage of Indiana Legislation Establishing Driver Cards for Undocumented Indiana Residents

WHEREAS, until 2007 Indiana extended a universal right to a driver's license to all Indiana residents who were able and qualified to pass a test of practice and knowledge for driving in this state; and

WHEREAS, with the enactment of Senate Bill 463, or Act 184, to comply with the Federal Law of REAL IDENTIFICATION ACT (REAL ID ACT), applicants are required to provide proof of lawful presence in the United States, which results in many members of the immigrant community being unable to obtain a Indiana driver's license;

WHEREAS, that we as a society welcome all immigrants who contribute to American society by being educated and skilled professionals; such as doctors, nurses, caregivers, lawyers, accountants, and all professions, as well as mechanics, electricians, carpenters, plumbers, truck drivers, manufacturers, construction workers, and all trade laborers. Immigrants also build and maintain our roads, houses, landscape our properties, cultivate and harvest our food and do countless non-skilled jobs. By working all these jobs, they contribute to our tax base by paying (Federal, State, County, City and Town) taxes and fees. However, as a society, we unjustly deny basic human rights and foment family separation; without a driver's license they are unable to participate fully and equally in the community and are at risk of deportation each time they must drive; and

WHEREAS, that immigrants without a driver's license experience challenges towards a better quality of life; parents are forced to limit their access to healthcare, educational or extracurricular opportunities for their children, or a better paying job due to fear of driving without a license; and

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WHEREAS, that the City of Hammond strives to be a welcoming community for all immigrants from all over the world, who come in search of opportunity, stability, prosperity, education, and a better life for their families; and

WHEREAS, that undocumented families in the city, makeup a growing population of immigrant workers from other countries. These people contribute economically and culturally, and families could choose to leave the City to reside, work and raise their families in other cities or states, in search of safer opportunities, but they decide to stay and reside here because this is their city too, and this is where they desire to set their roots.

WHEREAS, the undocumented immigrants have the same hopes, fears, and dreams as any other member of our community, and we recognize their humanity and support them in their struggle for permanent protection, dignity, and respect, and

WHEREAS, earlier in 2022, Indiana House Bill 1195 and Senate Bill 200 establishing Driver Cards in Indiana failed to move forward; and

WHEREAS, since 2008, undocumented immigrants residing in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, together with the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, can now obtain a driver's license; and,

WHEREAS, a driver's card will provide an easily identifiable and distinguishable identification that will not be valid for voter identification; and

WHEREAS, bipartisan legislation will again be introduced in both houses of the Indiana General Assembly to establish driver cards for undocumented residents.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HAMMOND Indiana, on behalf of the people of the City, hereby endorses and urges the passage of state legislation to provide a pathway for undocumented Indiana residents to be able to obtain Drivers Cards. The Hammond City Clerk is respectfully instructed by the Hammond Common Council to forward this resolution, upon passage, to both Houses of the Indiana Assembly and presented to the study committee for consideration.

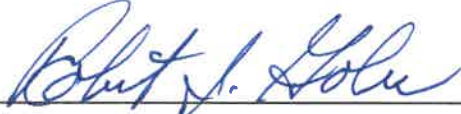
Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Hammond, Indiana, Endorsing
and Urging Passage of Indiana Legislation Establishing Driver Cards for
Undocumented Indiana Residents

ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Hammond, on the
28th day of November, 2022.



Dave Woerpel, President
Hammond Common Council

ATTEST:



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

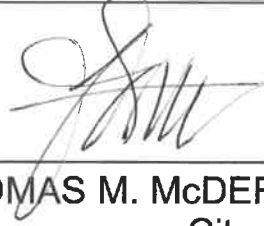
PRESENTED BY ME, the undersigned City Clerk of the City of
Hammond, to the Mayor of said City for his approval on the 29th
day of November, 2022



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk

The foregoing Resolution No. R26 consisting of 4 pages,
including this page, Approved was Approved and
Signed by the Mayor of the City of Hammond, Indiana on the 29th
day of November, 2022.

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THOMAS M. McDERMOTT, JR., MAYOR
City of Hammond, Indiana

ADOPTED by the Common Council on the 20th day of November, 2022, and Approved by the Mayor on the 29th day of November, 2022.



Robert J. Golec, City Clerk